

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained, due to a personal family matter, and unable to be present for votes on June 23, 2008 and July 8, 2008.

Had I been present on June 23, I would have voted "yea" on each of rollcall Nos. 438, 439, and 440.

Had I been present on July 8, I would have voted "yea" on each of rollcall Nos. 471, 472, and 473.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LELAND KNIGHT

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a true Texas hero. Teague Fire Chief Robert Leland Knight was killed in the line of duty on July 5th. He was only 42-years-old.

Chief Knight was a member of the Teague Volunteer Fire Department for almost 20 years. He became chief in 1999.

But his involvement in the community didn't stop there. He was also a volunteer paramedic, a member of the Boggy Masonic Lodge No. 739, and active in the First United Methodist Church.

He was also a proud graduate of Texas A&M University. I am honored to call myself an Aggie, not just because it is a great institution, but because it produces great men like Chief Knight.

Friends and family will tell you his love of his community and his alma mater were only trumped by one thing—his love of family. Chief Knight was a brother, a husband and a father. He is survived by his wife Terri Jo and his children—son, Trent and daughters, Layla and Laura.

My prayers are with Chief Knight's family and the town of Teague as they struggle to overcome this great loss. I hope they are comforted by the good memories and the examples of service to others he left with them.

Thousands of volunteer first responders put their lives on the line everyday. They run into burning buildings, respond to medical emergencies, and confront criminals—not because it's their job, but because they want to make their community a better, safer place.

Chief Knight made Teague and the State of Texas a better, safer place. Even though he is now gone, I am hopeful the way he lived will inspire a new generation of community volunteers because that would be the best way to honor this heroic man.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WARREN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual

whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Michael Warren is one of these individuals. On July 3, 2008, Michael retired after 14 years as the Chief of the Corona Fire Department and a celebration will be held this Saturday, July 12, 2008, in his honor.

Michael Warren was the Fire Chief for the City of Corona since May 1994 and also served as the Emergency Services Director for the City of Corona. In addition, Chief Warren serves as the Operational Area Mutual Aid Coordinator for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The Corona Fire Department currently employs a staff of 146 members and operates the suppression activities for the city from seven fire stations. In addition to being the Fire Chief, Chief Warren has served as the Acting Police Chief and Acting Utilities Director for the City of Corona. In his capacity as Fire Chief along with the "Acting" assignments he has worked closely with all of the other municipal departments creating collaborative solutions to city wide problems.

Chief Warren previously was the Deputy Chief for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/San Bernardino County Fire Department and Mutual Aid Operational Area Coordinator, and served with the U.S. Forest Service. He has over 36 years of experience in the fire service, serving on major emergency incidents throughout the United States. Chief Warren was a member of the National Emergency Incident Management Team. He has presented discussions on large scale emergency incident management to other state emergency organizations including the State of New York and at the International Association of Fire Chiefs conference.

Chief Warren was the President of the California Fire Chiefs Association from 2004–06, and held the Legislative Director position for the California Fire Chiefs Association. In addition, he serves on the Governor's Homeland Security Public Safety Advisory Council. Chief Warren was a member on the Public Safety Policy Committee for the League of California Cities, Vice Chair of the Inland Empire Affiliate of Burn Institute, is an active member of the board on Alternatives to Domestic Violence, and the Rotary Club. He was appointed to the California Emergency Council in 2006 by Governor Schwarzenegger. At the request of the Governor, Chief Warren has been Chairing the Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force since 2004.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Chief Warren was asked to serve as one of ten national experts on a nationwide program to assist other states in developing their own mutual aid programs and systems. He has worked with Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and Tennessee and is currently working with Utah, Nevada, Hawaii and Alaska. In the State of California, Chief Warren participates in discussions relative to amendments and changes to California's Mutual Aid program. In that capacity he also works directly with Federal Co-operators. Having served his entire career in the California Fire Service, he has participated in the development of ICS in the early 1970s up to and including the most recent discussions on revisions to the State's plan.

Chief Warren attended Chaffey College and Northern Arizona University, attaining degrees

and certificates in professional forestry, fire science and police science.

Chief Warren's expertise and tireless passion for the well-being and safety of the community has contributed immensely to the betterment of the City of Corona and the State of California. I am proud to call Michael a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

HONORING MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morristown National Historic Park, county of Morris, New Jersey, as we commemorate its 75th anniversary.

During two critical winters of the Revolutionary War, 1777 and 1779–80, the countryside in and around Morristown, New Jersey, sheltered the main encampments of the American Continental Army and served as the headquarters of its Commander-in-Chief, General George Washington. The winter of 1779–1780 is largely agreed upon by weather historians to be the worst winter of the 18th century, even worse than the winter of 1777–1778 at Valley Forge. But, due to better construction standards, proper sanitation, and better training, the winter of 1779–1780 turned out to be much more successful than prior winter at Valley Forge.

General Washington twice chose Morristown due to its strategic location, including proximity to New York City, defensible terrain, important communication routes, access to critical resources, and a supportive community. Morristown's location put it at the crossroads between supply lines connecting Philadelphia, and New England. And the town was close enough to New York to keep a watchful eye over the British encampment on Manhattan Island. This central location allowed Washington to move his army quickly to either New York or Philadelphia if need be. The park encompasses ground occupied by the army during the 1779–80 encampment, and the site of the fortification from the 1777 encampment.

The National Park consists of four non-contiguous units: Washington's Headquarters with the Ford mansion and headquarters museum, the Fort Mifflin Unit, the Jockey Hollow Unit, and the New Jersey Brigade Area. The Ford mansion, where Washington made his headquarters, is an important feature of the Park and recalls civilian contributions to the winning of our independence.

The Ford mansion has a very interesting history. It was built between 1772 and 1774 and was initially the home of COL Jacob Ford, Jr. Ford was a landowner, iron manufacturer, dedicated patriot, and colonel of the Eastern Battalion of New Jersey's militia. Through his command, Ford had participated in the first battle of Springfield. But, tragedy befell Ford shortly after the battle, when he was stricken with pneumonia. He died on January 10, 1777. After Jacob Ford's death, his widow Theodosia offered the mansion to General Washington to use as his winter quarters.